

Lisa Ballard

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FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-025IF
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th and C Street SW.
Washington, DC 20250-3700

I am writing to respectfully request that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration grant petition #98P-151/CP1 to ban the slaughter of downed animals for human food.

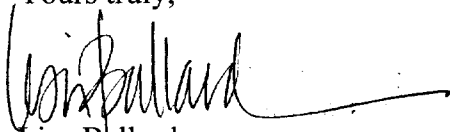
I urge the USDA to retain their ban on downer cows, and urge the agency to expand the ban on downers to include other species, such as sheep and pigs. The Downed Animal Protection Act requires critically ill and injured animals to be humanely euthanized, and prohibits their slaughter for human food. Unlike the USDA ban, this legislation will protect all animal species, not just cattle.

The vast majority of downed animals, between 75 and 90 percent, can be prevented with improved care and management on the farm and in transit. Removing the market for downed animals provides an appropriate incentive for livestock producers to be more attentive to their animal's health in order to prevent the problem in the first place. The ban on slaughtering downed animals for human food will lead to improved care and fewer downed animals overall. Improved animal care and management allows for better detection of symptoms, which may be indicative of mad cow disease or other illnesses. Humane consideration, not profit, should guide industry practice, and prevent downed animals from suffering gross abuse.

I am writing to formally express my support for petition #98P-151/CP1 to ban the slaughter of downed animals for human food, and to express my concerns about the irresponsible and inhumane marketing and slaughter of downed animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,


Lisa Ballard

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